

5-5-1872

Letter from Anne Whitney, to Elizabeth Manning, 1872 May 05

Anne Whitney

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Sunday 8th May [1872]
[5#] [Manning]

Dear Aunt Elizabeth - Since
Arlene is not there to translate
my Greek for you - it is a wonder
how I venture upon letter-com-
munication. It is this spring
wind that breathes daring into
me, I believe - Do you
remember where we were a year
ago this 5th of May? I met
in Venice. Then on the road
that leads to it. I think it
must be just 52 Sundays
since we arrived at that little
hotel - ate our meagre breakfast;
& then started on the quest
for Brill. The next Sunday
we were rowing out to Lido under
the guardianship of that much-
fathered gondolier who had led

he said, two very fruitful
wives & had been donated by them.
(if that is a proper use of this
elegant word) with 27 children.
perhaps you don't remember -
but I shall not soon forget -
A decline ~~of the~~ superhuman
efforts to keep the rest of us
politely grave while we re-
vised his narrative into English
for you & Abby - some things
he told us were quite too rich
for translation & you were
the losers. Then we reckoned
up the gains of that gossiping
according to the rate he rec'd.
from us - & the chances of
making both ends meet, with
the fatal 27 gnawing at them.
But we reckon like the pampered
fools we are, with whom the

ramment-overmasting the body &
the meat the life. With us
"things are in the saddle" & ride
as ~~they may~~ ~~they may~~ ~~they may~~. We can
never have become we have. Happy
Gondoliers - gliding along between
the twin heavens of Venice!
whose driver is a crust & an
onion - whose wives in all ship
probability get used to ~~driving~~
with ~~the~~ the services of an accoucheur,
whose children having slept on a
flag-stone all night, in the
morning rise up & call him blessed.
Would we were all Gondoliers!
or failing that - the wives of
Gondoliers -!

This is another affair -
Boston & housekeeping - polishing
this & counting spoons! it is
enough to make one sick to go
into a furnishing store & see
what devilish devices they have
for cumbering human lives. God!

& keep house with only one sauce-
pan! I think, in the presence
of our man of Business, it wd.
bring back Olympes. 'Heath!
was I not keeping house with
one saucepan (& Jenneth) when
Adry came & added another.
& a steamer on top of that -
after which it is but natural
to look for a locomotive &
railroad-train. But dear
Kinswomen you should see
what it is to live in Boston -
circulating between the two
upper stories of Lawrence building
opposite the Common. Drawing,
dining & chiseling up stairs -
sculpting, sleeping & receiving,
below. I think Mr. Mannings
plan the best. To take a house
& be "respectable". (as if we were
not so now) It ~~for~~ would not
probably cost us more than it
does now for rent, & with a

done in an agreeable situation
I think we might make a
good speculation. ~~But~~ I should
have proposed the matter to
Daddy - but her horror of such
things quenches all my fire
of enterprise. All is pleasant
where we are. We see Welltham
hills & the coming of summer
in the trees & the little crowds
that gather & mill about a
big telescope on the common.
For such are the pleasures
of the people in our land.
I wonder if you remember
the Pizze Idome & the
"travelling dentist" who talked,
let blood & drew teeth all
in the same breath & kept
an excited & amused crowd
about him as long as he chose
to stay? - When I hear a hard-
"organ"

or see a knot of people
in the streets. I am taken
back to those beloved parliaments
see the flashing eyes & white
teeth & endless justification
of the ragged crowd & cheat
myself again with the
dream that life is a holiday.

We are pleased with
Mr. Jewson's monthly -
& so soon as I can afford
it - I mean to subscribe.
If he will only keep
clear of the folly of talking
about women & her sphere!
That is a capital piece
of nonsense on this subject
in the present number.

Give him my kind regards
when he comes & say that

I desire he would come
to Boston & smoke the
calumet with me - little
doubt I am aware that
~~that~~ ^{the} cigar never came off. but
this time it shall & if
Adeline demurs she must
be shuffled into the dining-
room - otherwise the kitchen.
So will we bury any little
hatchet there may be on
the ~~part~~ ^[part] of any body -

It is excellent that
you are all so well &
that Mr. Manning has
returned in so much better
condition than he went.

Do not miss Manning
coming to see us in Adeline's
new sphere of work. I shall
look for her sometime during

The Summer. Also for you.
Please give love & all
with whom memory of me
lingers in yr. house.

It is a long time since
I saw Brooklyn - more
than 6 years as I think.
There will be the more
in store for me when I do
go there.

Father is almost himself again sets well & goes up & our stoves help & doze & burn a day. He still shrink from facing the out. door air. But when we have mild weather will not need wadding & hope. The weather has been more or less detestable since March 1st. & all the ailings of all my friends seem to be one form or another of this "ethereal mildness". Oddy reads you letters to me. & when I write you it is in answer to my part of your letter. Thank you dear Aunt don't think

most obliging to write the Affectionate mine Anne.